

**BEDFORD**  
**RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND OF THE  
**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

FOR THE YEAR

**1959**

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Medical Officer of Health

D. T. MATTHEWS, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.  
Public Health Inspector





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BEDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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*Public Health Inspector, Engineer and Surveyor*

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*Additional Public Health Inspector and Deputy Surveyor*

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*Senior Engineering Assistant*

C. ROSE, A.M.I.MUN.E.

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G. E. PRIGMORE

*Building Inspector*

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*Assistant Housing Inspector*

B. V. TAMKIN

*Rodent Operative*

J. N. COX

*Engineering Learner*

R. C. DAVIS

*Clerical Assistants*

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MRS. B. J. M. PRITCHARD

MISS J. WILLIAMS

MRS. C. E. BARBER

M. J. TINKER

## To the Chairman and Members of the Bedford Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1959.

The vital statistics for the year are reasonably satisfactory except for the fact that this year the infant death rate was rather high. The main cause for this was the number of premature births in the district.

Failure to obtain a reduction in the peri-natal mortality is a national problem. Peri-natal mortality is made up of still births and deaths during the first week of life, of which prematurity is one of the major causes. An investigation into the etiology is at present being organised by the National Birthday Trust and it is hoped that the report on this work will enable steps to be taken to reduce this waste of life.

The progress which has been made with the installation of main drainage in the larger parishes has been most encouraging. This has had a secondary effect in stimulating the repair and modernisation of many houses, which has contributed materially to an improvement in the housing conditions in the district.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council and Council staff for their help and co-operation during the year and in particular Mr. Matthews who has been responsible for the major part of the year's work recorded in this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. S. BURY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

May, 1960.



# BEDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1959

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### 1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112,590
Population—										
Census for 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30,688
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid-year 1959									...	32,950
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,586
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£451,182
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,630

### 2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Non-agricultural industries in the area consist of brickworks at Stewartby and Kempston Hardwick, leather dressing at Harrold and Odell, and the National Aeronautical Establishment north of Bedford. The main industry, however, is still agriculture consisting principally of arable land with considerable areas of pasture, especially in the Ouse Valley. Industries in the Borough of Bedford and the Urban District of Rushden give employment to residents of nearby villages in this Rural District.

There is no unemployment in the area and there is considerable pressure on housing accommodation. Caravans and other sub-standard dwellings are constantly appearing and only constant vigilance and prompt action (generally of an informal nature) prevents the growing up of "shanty towns" in some parts of the district.

### 3. VITAL STATISTICS

#### LIVE BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	309	290	599
Illegitimate	...	...	...	14	9	23
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	323	299	622
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Crude Birth Rate	...	...	...	18·9 per 1,000 home population		
Adjusted Birth Rate	...	...	...	22·5	„	„

(The comparability factor for the district being 1·19)

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	...	15·9 per 1,000 home population		
Adjusted Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	...	19·4	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	16·5	„	„

#### STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	7	5	12
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	7	5	12
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Still Birth Rate	...	...	...	18·9 per 1,000 live and still births		

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	...	15·1	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	...	19·9	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	20·7	„	„	„	„	„

#### DEATHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths in the District	...	...	...	180	108	288
Transferred into District	...	...	...	62	70	132
Transferred from District	...	...	...	48	9	57
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	194	169	363
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Crude Death Rate	...	...	...	11·0 per 1,000 home population		
Adjusted Death Rate	...	...	...	10·0	„	„

(The comparability factor for the District being 0·91)



As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	10·4	per 1,000 home population
Adjusted Rate for Bedfordshire	...	10·8	„ „ „ „	
Rate for England and Wales	...	11·6	„ „ „ „	

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	11	6	17
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
					—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	11	7	18
					==	==	==
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	28·9	per 1,000 related births			

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	23·1	„ „ „ „
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	19·7	„ „ „ „
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	22·0	„ „ „ „

DEATHS CONNECTED WITH CHILDBIRTH

Maternal Mortality	...	...	Nil	per 1,000 total live and still births
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As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	0·38	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	0·43	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	0·38	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „

# PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes	Under 15 years		15-65		over 65		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
3. Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	3	—	7	2	10	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	—	—	3	—	7	1	10	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	—	—	5	8	7	12	12	20
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
16. Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	—	1	2	3	31	34	33	38
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	—	—	7	2	23	15	30	17
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	1	1	6	3	7	4
20. Other heart disease ...	—	—	3	4	10	22	13	26
21. Other circulatory disease ...	—	—	—	—	5	6	5	6
22. Influenza ...	—	—	1	1	2	5	3	6
23. Pneumonia ...	1	—	1	—	5	4	7	4
24. Bronchitis ...	1	—	2	—	8	4	11	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	—	3	1	—	—	3	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—	—	7	—	7	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	11	4	5	3	7	14	23	21
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	1	7	2	—	—	7	3
34. All other accidents ...	—	—	4	1	—	2	4	3
35. Suicide ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
All causes ...	14	8	53	28	127	133	194	169

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANCY

Congenital Malformations ...	3
Prematurity ...	8
Pneumonia ...	1
Accident of birth ...	2
Asphyxia Neonatorum ...	3
Bronchitis ...	2

#### 4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

##### PROVIDED BY THE NORTH WEST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

###### GENERAL HOSPITALS

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

###### INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITAL

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittlesea, Nr. Luton, Beds.

###### CHEST CLINIC (FOR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS)

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

###### VENERAL DISEASE CLINIC

Bedford General Hospital (South Wing)

Wednesday 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Friday 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

Luton and Dunstable Hospital

Monday-Friday 8.30 a.m.-8.30 p.m.

Saturday 8.30 a.m.-12 noon

##### PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

###### BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

##### PROVIDED BY THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

###### AMBULANCE SERVICE

The service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the needs of the area. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance or sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, when attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

The service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.



Depots are situated as follows:—

BEDFORD	<i>Telephone</i> Bedford 5335
Bedford Road, Kempston	
AMPTHILL	Ampthill 3333
14 Dunstable Street	
BIGGLESWADE	Biggleswade 2295
Crab Lane	
DUNSTABLE	Dunstable 761
High Street North	
LUTON	Luton 6400
Leicester Road, Luton	
LINSLADE	Leighton Buzzard 3332
Bucks. County Council, 10 New Road, Linslade	
RUSHDEN	Rushden 2403
Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association, Mr. C. C. Woods, 3, Purvis Road	

#### DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Administered by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The following is a list of nurses and their districts:—

Carlton and Chellington, Harrold, Odell, Podington and Wymington ... ..	Nurse L. Draper*† Phone Harrold 265
Bletsoe, Felmersham, Knotting and Souldrop, Sharnbrook ... ..	Nurse C. S. Taylor*† Phone Sharnbrook 380
Clapham (midwifery only) ... ..	Nurse R. A. Marshall*† Phone Bromham Green 212
Clapham (General Nursing): Bedford General Nurses, 3, St. Peter's Street, Bedford ... ..	Phone Bedford 3542
Office hours: Weekdays: 8.30–9.30 a.m. 4.30–5.30 p.m. Sunday and Bank Holidays: 9–10 a.m. 4.30–5.30 p.m.	
Biddenham, Bromham, Stagsden, Kempston Rural (part)	Nurse R. A. Marshall*† Phone Bromham Green 212
Milton Ernest, Oakley, Pavenham, Turvey and Stevington ... ..	Nurse E. Henshall†† Phone Bromham Green 535
Dean and Shelton, Melchbourne and Yelden, Pertenhall, Riseley and Swineshead ... ..	Nurse M. I. Bains†† Phone Riseley 367

Bolnhurst, Colmworth, Keysoe, Little Staughton, Thurleigh ... ..	Nurse E. D. Lord*‡ Phone Colmworth 245
Kempston Rural (part), Elstow, Eastcotts, Wilstead (midwifery) ... ..	{ Nurse M. Clark†‡ Phone Kempston 2172 Nurse F. K. Patton*‡ Phone Kempston 2079
Stewartby, Wootton ... ..	(Vacancy) Phone Lower Shelton 268
Cardington, Cople, Wilstead, Eastcotts, Elstow (general nursing) ... ..	Nurse E. R. Miller†‡ Phone Cardington 205
Cardington, Cople (midwifery) ... ..	Nurse D. E. Hellett*‡ Phone Bedford 66155
Eaton Socon, Little Barford ... ..	(Vacancy) Phone Eaton Socon 267
Great Barford, Ravensden, Renhold, Roxton, Wilden, Willington ... ..	Nurse D. E. Hellett*‡ Phone Bedford 66155
* S.R.N. (State Registered Nurse) ‡ S.C.M. (State Certified Midwife) † S.E.A.N. (State Enrolled Assistant Nurse)	
HEALTH VISITING SERVICE	
Eaton Socon, Lt. Barford, Clapham ... ..	Miss C. M. Chesterfield, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
Elstow ... ..	Miss D. Elliott, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
Dean and Shelton, Melchbourne and Yelden, Swineshead, Riseley, Wymington, Podington, Odell, Harrold, Carlton and Chellington, Pavenham, Milton Ernest, Oakley, Stevington, Turvey, Pertenhall ... ..	Miss M. Cockshoot, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
Bromham, Biddenham, Stagsden, Kempston Rural, Wootton ... ..	Mrs. E. H. Simmonds, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
Ravensden, Wilden, Roxton, Renhold, Gt. Barford, Willington ... ..	Miss D. Hellett, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
Stewartby ... ..	Mrs. B. K. Groom, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
Wilstead, Eastcotts, Cardington, Cople ... ..	Miss J. E. Dicks, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
Felmersham, Bletsoe, Sharnbrook, Knotting and Souldrop ... ..	Mrs. D. Oxton S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
Lt. Staughton, Bolnhurst and Keysoe, Thurleigh and Colmworth ... ..	Miss E. D. Lord, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.



## HOME HELP SERVICE

Organiser: Mrs. V. M. van Berckelaer, 3, St. Peter's Street, Bedford.

Phone Bedford 2207.

## CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

Bromham	...	...	Village Hall, Monday afternoon fortnightly
Clapham	...	...	Estate Office, Highbury Grove, Monday afternoon weekly
Cardington	...	...	R.A.F. Station, Cardington, Tuesday afternoon fortnightly
Eaton Socon	...	...	Methodist Schoolroom, Tuesday afternoon fortnightly
Great Barford	...	...	Methodist Schoolroom, Tuesday afternoon every four weeks
Harrold	...	...	The Chapel, Thursday afternoon every four weeks
Riseley	...	...	Village Hall, Wednesday afternoon every four weeks
Sharnbrook	...	...	Church Hall, Thursday afternoon fortnightly
Stevington	...	...	Manor Farm, Wednesday afternoon every four weeks
Stewartby	...	...	United Churches Hall, Monday afternoon fortnightly
Thurleigh	...	...	Village Hall, Wednesday afternoon every four weeks
Turvey	...	...	Old Schoolroom, Wednesday afternoon every four weeks
Wilstead	...	...	Village Hall, Tuesday afternoon every four weeks
Wootton	...	...	Methodist Schoolroom, Thursday afternoon fortnightly
Wyboston	...	...	Village Hall, Wednesday afternoon every four weeks
Wymington	...	...	Wesleyan Chapel, Tuesday afternoon every four weeks

## ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Biggleswade, The Lawns	...	...	...	...	Tuesdays, a.m. fortnightly
Amphill, 1, Dunstable Street	...	...	...	...	Fridays, a.m. fortnightly

## SCHOOL CLINICS

St. Peter's Clinic, 3, St. Peter's Street, Bedford.	Child Guidance Dental (2 surgeries) Orthoptic Speech therapy Sunlight	4 Sessions weekly Sessions as required  4 Sessions weekly When specially arranged
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# 5. SCHOOLS

## SANITARY CONDITIONS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Further progress has been made with improving the sanitation in school buildings; there are only thirteen schools now with pail closets. At Podington this only applies to the boys; girls and staff now having W.C's. Details of the thirteen schools are given below. Most of these are very small and several are due for eventual closure. I am informed that plans are in hand for early conversion of the two schools where the need is most urgent, namely Riseley V.P. and Bromham C.V.P. Washing facilities are installed in all schools except Stagsden and Renhold.

At last a start has been made on the new Secondary Modern School at Riseley. This will greatly ease the overcrowding in some of the neighbouring schools.



School	Type	Number of Pupils	Closets Type	Sewage Disposal	Observations
Bletsoe	C.V.P.	10	Pail	Emptied daily	Wash basins now installed
Bromham	C.V.P.	77	Pail	Emptied weekly	Main drainage now available
Colmworth	C.V.P.	30	Pail	Emptied twice weekly	One wash basin
Milton Ernest	C.V.P.	50	Pail	Emptied twice weekly	Wash basins installed
Podington	V.P.	39	Pail	Emptied twice weekly	W.C's now installed for girls and staff
Ravensden	V.P.	33	Pail	Emptied twice weekly	Wash basins now installed
Renhold	C.V.P.	22	Pail	Emptied daily	No wash basins
Riseley	V.P.	144	Pail	Emptied twice weekly	Insufficient sanitary accommodation. Main drainage now available
Roxton	V.P.	50	Pail	Weekly collection by R.D.C.	Wash basins installed
Souldrop	C.P.	56	Pail	Emptied daily	Wash basins installed
Stagsden	V.P.	25	Pail	Emptied daily	No wash basins
Turvey	C.P.	39	Pail	Emptied weekly	Wash basins installed
Wilden	V.P.	32	Pail	Emptied thrice weekly	Wash basins now installed

#### SCHOOL CLOSURES

No schools were closed for health reasons during the year.

## 6. SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

### (a) WATER SUPPLY

The Council has a large and comprehensive water undertaking which is, however, confined entirely to distribution of water obtained from various outside sources, particularly Bedford Corporation. Water in various quantities is also obtained from the Biggleswade Water Board, Ampthill Rural District Council, St. Neots Urban District Council, Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board and Kempston Urban District Council.

The distribution system had, during this year, to cope with drought conditions during the Spring, Summer and Autumn, and although for part of this period restrictions on the use of hoses had to be imposed, the system coped with these difficult conditions reasonably well. The supplying Authorities were producing water to the utmost capacity of their plants, and this fact constituted a limitation which, so far as the Bedford Corporation source of supply is concerned, will not recur for some years as their new water works will be in operation before next Summer. Even with a plentiful supply of water however, it is likely that under similar conditions certain parts of the distribution system would not be adequate to supply water for unlimited non-domestic purposes, and should this object be considered desirable for the whole of the area under extreme dry weather conditions, further augmentation of the distribution mains would be necessary.

The extensive post-war development which has taken place, and anticipated future development at a similar or even greater rate will possibly necessitate further extension of the distribution capacity of the mains in this Rural District, and the uncertainty caused by the irritating delays in forming and operating the new Water Boards is likely to have an inhibiting effect upon future capital schemes which possibly ought now to be in preparation.

During this interim period the Council has endeavoured to act as they have normally done in the past, and a number of small extensions to mains have been carried out, but with the best will in the world the present uncertainty makes objective assessments and actions extremely difficult.

Reports on Chemical Analyses and Bacteriological Examinations made during the year have been submitted by each of the Water Undertakings concerned. In each case the results revealed a water supply which was pure, wholesome and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. The Analysts' reports do suggest that in the case of the supplies from the Bedford Corporation and St. Neots U.D.C. they could be improved by softening.



Routine samples of mains water have been taken regularly for bacteriological examination throughout the year. There were three unsatisfactory results from samples taken in the Podington area, and immediate action was taken to flush out and chlorinate the mains system. Subsequent samples revealed that conditions were satisfactory again. One other unsatisfactory sample found in another part of the distribution system was similarly dealt with.

Eleven bacteriological samples were also taken from private well supplies and nine were found to be unsatisfactory. In several instances unsatisfactory samples came from wells which the owners contemplated using instead of the already installed mains water, and so presented no health hazard.

On one other instance the unsatisfactory sample came from a well supplying several cottages. The occupiers were duly advised to drink the mains water which was equally accessible from a standpipe. In the three other cases the wells were the only sources of supply and action was taken to improve the water from these wells.

#### TYPICAL RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES (in parts per million)

	Bedford Borough	Birchmoor Water Com- mittee	Biggles- wade W.B. (Dunton)	Rushden & Higham Ferrers W.B.	St. Neots U.D.
Reaction (pH) ... ..	7.5	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.1
Turbidity (Silica scale) ... ..	>1	Nil	Nil	—	Nil
Colour (Hazen Units) ... ..	4	Nil	Nil	—	Nil
Carbonate Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) ... ..	235	45	160	120	425
Non-carbonate Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) ... ..	117	45	30	180	80
Total hardness ... ..	352	90	190	300	505
Free carbon dioxide ... ..	15	6	15	—	10
Chlorine (as chlorides) ... ..	52	17	11	36.0	67.5
Nitrate nitrogen (N) ... ..	2.12	6.6	Nil	04.5	Nil
Nitrite nitrogen (N) ... ..	2.12	Nil	>0.01	trace	13.0
Ammoniacal nitrogen ... ..	0.004	Nil	Nil	—	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen ... ..	0.13	Nil	Nil	0.116	0.048
O <sub>2</sub> from K <sub>2</sub> Mn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> in 3 hours at 37°C. ... ..	1.1	0.20	—	1.319	0.545
Totals solids at 180°C. ... ..	—	145	270	—	1,143
Electric conductivity (megohms per c.c. at 20°C.) ... ..	724	215	350	—	—
Iron ... ..	Nil	Nil	0.18	—	Nil
Copper ... ..	>0.1	Nil	Nil	—	Nil
Lead ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	Nil
Zinc ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—
Calcium ... ..	126	—	—	124	223
Magnesium ... ..	9	Nil	Nil	14.0	10
Fluorine ... ..	0.15	—	—	—	0.15
Sulphates ... ..	113	—	—	—	347
Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Phosphates ... ..	0.5	—	—	—	—
Detergent estimate ... ..	0.27	—	—	—	—



Details of the main water supplies are as follows:—

PARISH	Population estimated for 1951	Length of Mains		Premises Supplied	No. of Services	No. of Stand- posts	Estimated Population Supplied
		Miles	Yards				
Great Barford ... ..	822	2	939	157	157	8	834
Little Barford ... ..	97	3	1,595	8	13	2	64
Biddenham ... ..	582	2	11	241	241	—	766
Bletsoe ... ..	291	8	74	45	51	7	297
Bolnhurst and Keysoe ...	683	15	386	169	181	29	748
Bromham ... ..	1,470	7	1,330	552	593	—	2,501
Cardington ... ..	483	1	1,040	121	76	—	499
Carlton and Chellington	597	6	791	117	109	12	537
Clapham ... ..	1,751	6	1,272	768	525	14	2,507
Colmworth ... ..	584	4	380	92	85	10	564
Cople ... ..	614	2	373	177	156	9	688
Dean and Shelton ...	361	3	1,432	99	103	16	395
Eastcotts ... ..	1,148	3	549	539	522	11	1,581
Eaton Socon ... ..	3,143	16	1,481	784	641	44	3,412
Elstow ... ..	470	3	466	158	109	—	497
Felmersham ... ..	381	5	605	111	107	14	461
Harrold ... ..	1,061	1	1,337	227	207	21	1,380
Kempston Rural ...	1,081	12	619	355	305	17	1,319
Knotting and Souldrop	289	5	700	75	66	9	334
Melchbourne and Yelden	317	5	676	71	65	12	347
Milton Ernest ... ..	438	7	52	94	96	8	460
Oakley ... ..	559	5	300	201	192	19	721
Odell ... ..	235	3	425	69	65	7	293
Pavenham ... ..	391	3	50	124	113	11	523
Pertenhall ... ..	221	2	295	52	58	4	207
Podington ... ..	698	5	1,389	96	91	7	636
Ravensden ... ..	509	8	199	129	135	13	575
Renhold ... ..	617	12	600	304	301	1	707
Riseley ... ..	573	4	803	146	127	16	694
Roxton ... ..	743	5	1,067	135	115	16	739
Sharnbrook ... ..	1,064	9	1,711	272	263	11	1,099
Stagsden ... ..	438	3	959	125	121	14	520
Little Staughton ...	238	5	61	66	67	12	296
Stevington ... ..	468	4	1,108	112	121	10	564
Stewartby ... ..	1,827	7	86	270	234	—	2,545
Swineshead ... ..	110	1	728	39	35	4	117
Thurleigh ... ..	507	10	548	115	114	17	544
Turvey ... ..	750	5	1,458	161	135	15	961
Wilden ... ..	397	9	29	94	95	15	437
Willington ... ..	523	3	732	116	116	13	580
Wilshamstead ... ..	971	7	1,139	232	210	17	1,083
Wootton ... ..	1,460	7	595	475	430	—	2,121
Wymington ... ..	726	1	1,213	244	159	2	770
Sandy and Tempsford (Biggleswade R.D.C. Trunk Main) ... ..	—	3	876	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	30,688	255	799	8,547	7,705	499	36,923

# RAINFALL (BEDFORD)

1959 Month	Total ins.	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours		No. of days with .01" or more	No. of days with .04" or more
		Inches	Date		
January ... ..	3.37	0.93	6th	18	12
February ... ..	0.10	0.07	21st	4	1
March ... ..	2.39	0.89	7th	15	9
April ... ..	1.45	0.48	16th	14	10
May ... ..	0.61	0.29	21st	5	5
June ... ..	0.79	0.18	24th	9	8
July ... ..	2.63	0.95	10th	10	9
August ... ..	0.58	0.20	12th	6	5
September ... ..	0.04	0.04	21st	1	1
October ... ..	1.74	0.59	26th	13	11
November ... ..	1.15	0.53	17th	14	11
December ... ..	2.94	0.53	3rd	24	14
Total	17.79				

## (b) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During this year, work proceeded on the installation of main drainage in the unsewered part of Eaton Socon village and in the Parishes of Oakley and Stevington.

As a further step in the implementation of the Council's intention to sewer as much of the district as economic conditions will permit, proposals were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for a further comprehensive scheme to provide main drainage in Turvey, Wilstead, Cardington, Great Barford, Elstow and parts of Wootton and Kempston Rural. Authority to proceed to Tender cannot be anticipated until certain negotiations have been completed, particularly those connected with the acquisition of land required, and these negotiations are likely to be rather protracted.

As a further step towards the sewerage of the district, the Council reviewed the position of the remaining unsewered villages and determined which should be placed in the next group to be projected. Having decided upon the order in which these should be done, preparatory work has commenced upon proposals for the Parishes of Renhold and Ravensden.

Although a few property owners, for financial or other reasons, are reluctant to take advantage of main drainage when it becomes available, the majority welcome this facility and not only connect their drainage to it, but often at the same time undertake improvements and modernisation of their property with, or without, the aid of grants. This is resulting in enhancement of the standard of comfort which householders enjoy and is diminishing the Council's obligation to empty cesspools. Although as yet this has not resulted in a more frequent cesspool emptying service for the unsewered Parishes, it has made it unnecessary to engage outside help from private contractors who were previously employed on a rather large scale, especially during Winter months.

The number of cesspools emptied by the Council during the year was 1,177.



### (c) RIVERS AND STREAMS

Although some ditches continue to be polluted by the discharge or emptying of household wastes, there is now a considerable reduction both in number and degree of pollution. Those which created the greatest nuisance were, for the most part, in the villages which have now become sewered, and generally they have reverted to their proper function of water courses for surface water only. Discharges of large quantities of untreated sewage into the River Ouse have also been eliminated, and this has undoubtedly led to an improvement in the condition of the river.

There are, however, certain remaining points of contamination, two of which will be removed with the operation of the Oakley and Stevington sewerage schemes, at present in contract, and most of the others when the sewerage scheme, at present awaiting authorisation, has been undertaken.

### (d) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

A large number of pail closets have been replaced by water closets in newly sewered parishes, and this form of sanitation is on the decrease. By reason of the fact that there are still many unsewered parishes, it follows that there are still very large numbers of pails in the area, and must be for many years to come. The Council continues to empty pails in six villages, the service having been transferred from some of the newly sewered villages to others which previously did not have it. With the completion and operation of the Eaton Socon main drainage scheme it is hoped to make further transfers during the coming year.

### (e) PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council operates by direct labour, schemes for the collection of refuse, emptying of closet pails and the emptying of cesspools. Refuse is collected once a week in nine parishes and fortnightly in all other parishes.

During last year, the refuse collection organisation was stretched beyond its capacity due to increased development in the District and a deficiency in the number of freighters and crews employed. This was partly rectified this year by the purchase of a new refuse collecting vehicle, and it is anticipated that the progressive replacement of old vehicles will enable the improvement of the service to be maintained, as there will be less likelihood of breakdown, and the replacement vehicles will generally have a larger carrying capacity.

It has been noticeable during recent years that the nature of refuse is changing, as with the urbanisation of villages near the periphery of towns, it becomes more difficult for householders to dispose of burnable refuse privately, with the result that larger quantities are expected to be collected, and there is a larger amount of paper and cardboard which, being bulky, takes up a disproportionate amount of freighter space and present problems in disposal. The Council will, therefore, need to keep its service in constant review so long as the present changing pattern continues.

### (f) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following list gives the statistics relative to the sanitary inspection of the area:—

Number of inspections made during the year	...	...	...	...	...	6,319
Visits to houses under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	199
Visits to other premises under the Public Health Acts			...	...	...	291
Visits to houses under the Housing Acts		...	...	...	...	293



Council house visits for repairs, maintenance, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,480
Infectious disease and food poisoning investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Poliomyelitis survey visits in collaboration with the Public Health Laboratory									
Service ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Visits to Food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	191
Inspections of slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Inspections of knackers yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Inspections of meat and other foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	464
Factory inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Inspections of dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Visits to caravan sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Smoke abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Places of public entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections of licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Visits in connection with the Rent Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Inspections in connection with the comprehensive schemes of water supply									1,069
Inspections in connection with sewerage schemes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	355
Inspections in connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949...									1,710

#### INSPECTIONS OF HOUSES UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Defects prejudicial to health or a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Defective or blocked drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Overflowing or leaking cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Defective or insanitary closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Filthy or verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dangerous buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Defective water services	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	174
Sundry nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30

#### INSPECTIONS OF OTHER PREMISES AND PLACES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Ditches and streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Places of public entertainments (village halls)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sundry nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

#### SUMMARY OF MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

## DISINFECTION

Where it is necessary, in cases of notifiable infectious disease, the rooms occupied by the patient are sealed off and disinfected with a dilute spray of formalin or by formaldehyde gas. Thirteen rooms were so treated in 1959. An inspection of the house and sanitary arrangements is made in each case, and where necessary, informal notices are served requiring any defects found to be remedied.

### (g) PETROL AND CARBIDE LICENCES

Number of licences to store petrol and carbide granted during the year ...	5
--	---

### (h) SMOKE ABATEMENT

Industrial concerns in the District have now got furnace equipment which is capable of burning fuel efficiently and without excessive smoke emission. The significance of this fact is that no contraventions of the Regulations governing the emission of dark smoke have been noted during the year amongst the industrial concerns.

An excessive quantity of black smoke was observed on one occasion however, being emitted from a chimney at the Central Electricity Board's generating station at Little Barford. This emission was subsequently found to be due to teething troubles in connection with the installation of new furnace equipment. The Council has no direct control over this State-run industry, apart from referring any contravention to the Minister responsible for that Department when considered necessary, but an assurance was sought from the Station Superintendent that all possible precautions would be taken to prevent a recurrence of the black smoke emission.

Smoke abatement also concerns the ordinary individual householder in that approximately half the coal produced in this country is burnt on ordinary domestic grates thereby adding considerably to the overall atmospheric pollution. Local Authorities are empowered to deal with the domestic problem by the creation of Smoke Control Areas in which it is permissible to burn only smokeless fuels. Whilst such action in this District would make a useful contribution to clean air, the problems of the supply of smokeless fuels, most of which have to be manufactured, are such that it is felt that existing supplies of these fuels should be utilised in relieving the more urgent problems of atmospheric pollution that occur in the larger industrial towns. As the smokeless fuel supplies become more plentiful the position should be reassessed however, particularly with those areas within the District which are adjoining Urban areas where Smoke Control Areas are already being made.

Systematic measurement of the atmospheric pollution from the brickworks within the area has been started during the year under the auspices of a joint committee of the local authorities concerned and the County Council but it is too early yet to comment upon the extent and pattern of this pollution.

Number of smoke observations ... ..	3
Number of contraventions ... ..	1
Number of inspections of boiler-house plant ... ..	1



## (i) RATS AND MICE—PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council employ one Rodent Officer who is responsible for the survey of the area and for treatment of domestic and business premises in which rats and mice are found. The treatment of domestic premises is carried out as a free service.

All agricultural lands and premises are also surveyed to ensure that the occupiers are fulfilling their obligations under the Act to eradicate rats and mice.

Regular treatment is applied at the Council's refuse tips and test baiting of sewers is undertaken as a routine measure once a year, and treatment carried out where necessary.

The unusually hot summer brought a large number of requests to deal with wasps' nests and altogether 235 nests were eliminated. A considerable amount of the Officer's time was taken up with wasps' nests, but as the Council is under no obligation to deal with this problem, it may be desirable to consider the possibility of making a suitable charge for this service in the future.

Swarming flies in the roof space of houses was another seasonal problem which assumed larger proportions last year, and 14 properties had to be treated.

The following table gives details of the work undertaken by the end of the year:—

Total number of properties inspected	...	...	...	...	...	1,051
Total number of inspections and revisits	...	...	...	...	...	1,710
Dwelling houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	489
Dwelling houses treated	...	...	...	...	...	251
Agricultural premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	172
All other premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	210
All other premises treated	...	...	...	...	...	77
Number of properties found to be infested	...	...	...	...	...	331
Total treatments	...	...	...	...	...	383

## 7. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) MEAT INSPECTION

Number of slaughterhouses licensed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of knackery yards licensed	...	...	...	...	...	1

Slaughtering has been carried out in three of the four licensed slaughterhouses during the year. Two of the slaughterhouses are used solely for the occupiers' own retail businesses and the third slaughterhouse is operated by a wholesale butcher.

The year's figures indicate an increase of 11% from the previous year in the number of animals inspected. Meat inspection continues to occupy a considerable amount of the leisure time of the officer concerned in maintaining the Council's moral, if not legal obligation to give a comprehensive inspection of all the meat. This imposition is likely to continue until much needed legislation is introduced to restrict the hours of operation in the slaughterhouses.

One very satisfying fact noted during the year has been the decline in the number of tuberculous cattle and cows. The number of cattle (excluding cows) affected was 1.9% (compared with 3.2% in 1958) and the figure for cows was 3.3% (8.4%). An analysis of the figures for the last six months of the year has indicated an even more marked decline,



and in fact only 5 cases of tuberculosis were found in 659 cattle and cows. This decline in the tuberculosis rate amongst cattle coincides with the fact that Bedfordshire became a Tuberculosis Eradication Area on the 1st March, 1959, and subsequently an Attested Area as from the 1st October, 1959. The figures underline the valuable field work carried out by the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Seven carcasses of beef were found to be affected with active cysticercosis which is the cystic stage of the tape worm found in the human being. These carcasses were subjected to approved cold storage treatment which destroys the cysts.

Number of animals inspected	...	...	...	...	...	13,997
Number of visits made for meat inspections	...	...	...	...	...	458
Total weight of meat and offal rejected	...	...	...	...	...	33, 351 lbs.

#### CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed and inspected ...	976	332	138	3,732	8,819	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	10	16	15	29	71	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	156	75	3	89	1,501	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	17·0	27·4	13·1	3·1	17·8	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	1	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	18	10	—	—	132	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected by tuberculosis ...	1·9	3·3	—	—	1·5	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	5	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and total condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

#### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (PREVENTION OF CRUELTY) (No. 2) REGULATIONS 1954

The occupier of every knackery yard is required to submit an annual return showing the total number of horses slaughtered, the place at which they were slaughtered, and the total number of horses received during that year. There is one Knackery Yard in the area.

Knackers Yard occupier:—Chettle & Sons, Ltd.					
Address of Licensed Knackers Yard:—Gooseys Lodge, Wymington.					
Number of Horses slaughtered at Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	59
Number of Horses slaughtered on Farms	...	...	...	...	29
Number of carcasses of Horses received	...	...	...	...	15
Total number of Horses slaughtered and carcasses received	...	...	...	...	103

(b) FOOD

Food premises in the area:—

									<i>Number</i>	<i>Visits</i>
Grocery and Village General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69	42
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	16
Restaurants, Cafes and Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	16
Greengrocery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
Sweet Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
Wet and/or Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	12
Potato Crisp Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Ice Cream Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51	22
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	118	68

The food traders and handlers in the District are generally responsive to the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations and have maintained a satisfactory standard of hygiene. It was necessary to issue only 16 warnings of contraventions of the Regulations.

A number of the licensed premises in the area still have unsatisfactory washing facilities for glasses in the bar. In order to meet the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations it is necessary to have a suitable sink, with constant hot and cold water, in the vicinity of the serving point. In those cases where the washing arrangements fall short of these requirements, the breweries concerned have given assurances that the necessary improvements will be carried out in the near future. It is also possible that several of the more remote and uneconomical “houses” will be closed down.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

					lbs	oz.
8 tins evaporated milk	...	...	...	...	8	0
26 tins fruit	...	...	...	...	27	8
12 tins tomatoes	...	...	...	...	9	0
3 tins fish	...	...	...	...	1	8
12 tins cooked meat	...	...	...	...	14	4
2 tins ham	...	...	...	...	21	0
					<hr/> 81	<hr/> 4

This foodstuff was disposed of either by incineration or by burial on the Council’s refuse tips.



(c) PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Ice Cream Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Sausage and/or Meat Product Manufacturers					...	...	...	10

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the area and all the ice cream sold has been subjected to approved heat treatment processing by manufacturers of national repute.

Ten routine samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination and were found to be satisfactory.

The remaining registered premises are all attached to butchers' shops and are mainly used for the manufacture of sausages. All these premises have been satisfactorily maintained and managed during the year.

(d) MILK SUPPLY

Number of Distributors based in the District	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Dealers Licences issued to Dairymen based in the District							
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dealers Licences issued to Dairymen based outside the District							
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

As the whole of the District is a Specified Area, only designated milk (pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested) can be sold to the public.

Routine control by bacteriological and chemical samplings of milk and also supervision of the milk processing plants is carried out by the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority.

## 8. HOUSING

Number of Applications approved during the year	...	...	...	...	951
Number of Dwellings	...	...	...	...	244
„ „ Conversions to Dwellings	...	...	...	10	
„ „ Estate Development Lay-outs	...	...	...	8	



Number of Additions and Alterations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
„ „ Garages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
„ „ Drainage Schemes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
„ „ Farm Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
„ „ Factory and Workshop Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ Stores and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
„ „ Offices and Showrooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
„ „ Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ Miscellaneous Plans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160
„ „ Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Number of Houses erected by Private Enterprise during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	311
„ „ Conversions and Adaptations completed by Private Enterprise during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ Conversions and Adaptations completed by Local Authority during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Houses erected by Local Authority during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ preliminary inspections under Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	375
„ „ inspections in connection with foundations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	249
„ „ inspections in connection with D.P.C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	249
„ „ intermediate inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	224
„ „ inspections of drains and testing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	700
„ „ final inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Total inspections under Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,953
Number of inspections under Town and Country Planning Act, 1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	170

Under the various Housing Acts, 1,293 Houses have been erected by this Council and the late Eaton Socon Rural District Council. During the year 1,480 visits were made for the inspection of repairs and maintenance.

#### REPORT OF DEFECTS FOUND

Defective Walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
„ Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
„ Eaves Gutters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
„ Rainwater Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ Rainwater Butts and/or Tanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ Solid Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ Wooden Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ Wall Plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ Ceiling Plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
„ Windows	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation to Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Insufficient Height to Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
„ Cooking Grates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24

Defective other Grates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
„ Food Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dwellings with no Food Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Staircases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Handrails	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Staircases with no Handrails	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Coppers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dwellings with no Washing Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ Draining Boards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ Mantlepieces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Hot Water Systems	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
„ Paintwork and Decorations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses affected by dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective or no paving to Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
„ Paths or Gates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ Earth and Chemical Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
„ Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Premises without Drainage Facilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Sink Buckets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
„ Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
„ Fences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Water Services	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
„ Gas or Electric Fittings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58

## HOUSING CONDITIONS

Following the slum clearance survey which had been substantially completed last year, the Council embarked upon a new building programme with a view to providing alternative accommodation for displaced families. The programme also included the provision of small bungalows for aged persons. Unfortunately the progress of new building was disappointing, due predominantly to the large number of sites which were required in various Parishes, the lengthy procedure necessary to secure planning permission to utilise the land, approval by the Planning and Housing Authorities of detailed schemes, and the difficulties still associated with the purchase of land, even although Public Authorities are now empowered to pay a more realistic purchase price. It is hoped that this programme will gain momentum during 1960.

During the year there was a continuing demand for Improvement Grants, and grants paid for completed schemes totalled £21,460, which brought the aggregate of grants paid since their inception to £95,127. Previously any grants paid have been at the discretion of the Local Authority, but the system of Standard Grants which could be claimed as a right was introduced during the year. Standard Grants have not proved very successful, most applicants preferring to rely on the greater benefits which may be derived normally from an approved Discretionary Grant. In Rural Districts, this is probably due to the omission of drainage as a qualifying item of Standard Grants, as most schemes of modernisation in Rural areas usually required the installation of drainage which invariably will cause the total expense to exceed £310, this figure representing the basis of the maximum Standard Grant which can be paid. Although



occasionally one can question the wisdom of contributing public funds towards improvements of some of the older properties, the general effect on housing conditions is undoubtedly beneficial, and has resulted in the raising of standards which otherwise would have been impossible. In fact there have been instances of cottages which might well have attracted the attention of the Council with a view to demolition which, with the encouragement of the grant, have been reconditioned so effectively that they have been ensured of a new and long useful life.

#### INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1957

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110

#### REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	1,041
---	-----	-----	-------

#### ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

##### A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957:—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	1
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

##### (2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	—
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	—
---	-----	-----	---

B. Proceedings Under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	4
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

##### C. Proceedings under Sections 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957:—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	6
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	7
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

D. Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957, to secure closure of part of a building	...	...	...	...	...	—
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

E. Proceedings under Section 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957, in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	4
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

#### OVERCROWDING

Owing to the acute housing shortage, temporary overcrowding exists in some houses.

#### HOUSING ACTS, 1949–1959, IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

##### DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	191
Applications approved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Number of Houses concerned	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Applications refused	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Applications withdrawn	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Improvements completed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New Units of accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1



# STANDARD GRANTS

Applications approved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of houses concerned	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Applications refused	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Applications withdrawn	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Improvements completed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

# RENT ACT, 1957

The main purpose of this Act is to enable owners to obtain a better return from their properties to pay for maintenance and repairs. The legal machinery of the Act allows for landlord and tenant reaching some agreement on rent and repairs, and the Council only become involved to act in a semi-judicial capacity where the parties concerned fail to reach an agreement. During the year, only four applications have been brought before the Council.

Number of Applications for Certificate of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Certificates Issued for some of the Defects	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Certificates Issued for all the Defects	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Certificates Refused	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Undertakings given by landlords to do Repairs	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Certificates Cancelled on Completion of Repairs	...	...	...	...	1

## 9. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Notifications by Age Groups					Deaths
	0-5	5-15	Over 15	Total	Removed to Hospital	
Measles	158	266	2	426	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	3	—	6	—	—
Scarlet Fever	7	21	1	29	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	10	11	1	—
Encephalitis	—	—	1	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	5	6	—	—
Dysentery	2	12	2	16	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	1	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	1	6	7	—	—

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of infectious diseases was low except for measles. For the first time since 1952 there were no cases of poliomyelitis. There were no deaths from any notifiable infectious disease.

### NOTIFICATIONS BY PARISHES

Parish	Measles	W. Cough	Sc. Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Infective Hepatitis	Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Encephalitis	Food Poisoning
Biddenham ...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bolnhurst and Keysoe	24	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bromham ...	2	—	3	1	—	—	14	1	—	—	—	—
Cardington ...	11	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clapham ...	6	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colmworth ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cople ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dean and Shelton ...	22	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastcotts ...	56	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eaton Socon ...	65	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
Elstow ...	45	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Felmersham ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kempston Rural ...	6	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Little Staughton ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Melchbourne and Yelden	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oakley ...	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Odell ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pertenhall ...	12	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Podington ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ravensden ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Renhold ...	4	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Riseley ...	29	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Roxton ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharnbrook ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stagsden ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stevington ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stewartby ...	20	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swineshead ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Thurleigh ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilden ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Willington ...	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilstead ...	6	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wootton ...	57	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wymington ...	18	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	426	6	29	11	7	1	16	1	—	1	1	6



10. TUBERCULOSIS

Age				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-35	...	...	...	1+1*	3+2*	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-65	...	...	...	1	2*	—	1	—	—	1	—
Over 65	...	...	...	1*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...			2+2*	3+4*	1	2	—	—	1	—

★ Transferred from other Districts.

NUMBER ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR

					Males	Females
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	95	66
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	6	16

# TUBERCULOSIS IN PARISHES

Parish							New Cases			
							Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
							M.	F.	M.	F.
Bletsoe	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1*	—	—
Bromham	...	...	...	...	...	...	1+1*	1+1*	—	1
Clapham	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1*	—	—
Elstow	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
Great Barford	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1*	—	—
Harrold	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
Melchbourne and Yelden	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Odell	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*	—	—	—
Renhold	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
Totals						...	2+2*	3+4*	1	2

\* Transferred from other Districts.



DEATH RATES PER 100,000 OF THE POPULATION  
(Respiratory Tuberculosis)

This District ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Bedfordshire	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.4
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.7

INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS 1913-1959

Year				New Cases		Deaths	
				Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1913-14	...	...	...	26.0	7.0	15.5	7.0
1915-19	...	...	...	18.4	4.6	14.0	6.2
1920-24	...	...	...	19.8	5.8	11.8	2.2
1925-29	...	...	...	26.6	8.4	9.6	3.8
1930-34	Average	...	...	16.8	3.8	11.8	2.4
1935-39		...	...	13.6	3.4	9.6	1.8
1940-44		...	...	11.2	5.8	6.0	2.8
1945-49		...	...	23.4	6.6	4.4	2.0
1950-54		...	...	25.8	9.0	3.8	0.6
1955	...	...	...	20	10	—	1
1956	...	...	...	17	5	—	—
1957	...	...	...	17	2	2	—
1958	...	...	...	19	5	—	1
1959	...	...	...	5	3	—	1

## 11. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and vaccination is now the responsibility of the County Council and the state of protection of the children of the District is indicated by the tables appearing below which have been supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer.

IMMUNISATION STATE OF THE CHILD POPULATION

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
Number of children completely protected on 31st December, 1959 (i.e. have received a Primary Course or Booster injection since 1st January, 1955) ... ..	109	1,118	1,378	1,247	3,852
Number of children partially protected (i.e. have been immunised but have not received inoculation since 1st January, 1955) ... ..	—	—	549	1,252	1,801
Total number of children immunised at any time ... ..	109	1,118	1,927	2,499	5,653

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 and over	Total
Primary Vaccination ...	287	15	9	18	20	349
Re-Vaccination ... ..	1	—	3	9	47	60

The Government Scheme for protection against poliomyelitis made good progress during the year due to improved supplies of vaccine.

## 12. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948 gives the Local Authority power to compulsorily remove to hospital or other suitable premises, persons suffering from grave chronic disease, and/or, who being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, or living in insanitary conditions, being unable to devote to themselves or are not receiving from others, proper care and attention.

This legislation was not invoked during the year.



### 13. CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SEC. 85

#### *Scabies*

By arrangements with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford, at a cost of 10s. per treatment.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review no treatments were given.

### 14. FACTORIES

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

#### PART I OF THE ACT

(a) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	83	17	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	91	18	1	—

## (b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	—	—	—	1	—

## PART VIII OF THE ACT

### (c) OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel— Making, etc. ...	4	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains and furniture hangings ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and Upholstery	2	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	9	—	—	—	—	—



